Lack of infrastructural facilities in H.P.

1862. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that disparity between backward, hilly, far-flung areas and developing areas in Himachal Pradesh has increased, keeping the backward, hilly and far-flung areas in the State backward due to lack of proper infrastructure facilities inspite of incentives given by Government to set up industries in these areas; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) After the announcement of the new industrial policy, investment decisions are left to the commercial perceptions of the entrepreneurs. Promotion of industrial development in backward areas is primarily dependent on the initiative of the State Governments. The Union Government supports efforts of the States through schemes like the Growth Centre Scheme, the Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme etc.

Under the Growth Centre Scheme 71 growth centres are proposed to be developed through out the country with the Central assistance of Rs. 10 crore per growth centre (Rs. 15 crore in the case of North Eastern States). Each growth centre would be endowed with basic infrasturcture facilities to attract industrial units in the identified industrially backward areas. Under this scheme, one growth centre has been approved at Kangra (District Kangra) in Himachal Pradesh and an amount of Rs. 450 lakh has been released for this growth centre as Central assistance.

Under the Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme which envisages development of infrastructure facilities to facilitate location of small scale units in rural backward areas, the following two IID centres have been sanctioned in Himachal Pradesh.

(1) Village Bhamla Tehsil (District Mandi), and

(2) Village Gwalthai (District Bilaspur).

N.E. Industrial Policy 1997

1863. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facilites/incentives offered under N.E. Industrial Policy